

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 AID-10 EUR-10

IO-03 RSR-01 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5949

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14685

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: MR IV SITREP FOR AUGUST 13, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP THAI
AUG 13 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE CAN THO 0646

1. SUMMARY: THE MR IV BRIEFING AUGUST 13 WAS CANCELLED.
CONGEN THEREFORE HAS NO WEEKLY MR IV SECURITY SITUATION
FIGURES YET. THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATIONS HAVE
APPARENTLY HESITATED TO ABANDON THE GIONG TROM (KIEN HOA)
ICCS SUB-REGION SITE. MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED IN DINH
TUONG AUGUST 11-12. END SUMMARY

2. SECURITY SITUATION: MR IV BRIEFING ON AUGUST 13 WAS
CANCELLED, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE MR 4 COMMANDER MG NGHI IS OUT
ON OPERATIONS IN CHUONG THIEN. SINCE THERE IS NO LONGER A
SUNDAY BRIEFING, WE LACK FIGURES FOR BOTH AUGUST 11 AND 12.
MR 4 HAS TOLD US THAT THE REGULAR MONDAY WEEKLY WRAP-UP WILL
TAKE PLACE TOMORROW, AUGUST 14.

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3. ICCS: (A) THE DINH TUONG VICE CONSUL REPORTS THAT THE

POLISH AND HUNGARIAN THREAT TO ABANDON THE SUB-REGIONAL ICCS SITE AT GIONG TROM DISTRICT (KIEN HOA) HAS YET TO BECOME REALITY. THE TWO DELEGATIONS PROTESTED GVN BOMBING AUGUST 7 AT A SITE SOME SIX KILOMETERS FROM THE ICCS HEADQUARTERS (CAN THO 0638 AND 0643). IT APPEARS THAT THE INDONESIANS HAVE DECIDED TO STAY, AND THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS WILL NOT LEAVE UNILATERALLY. THE GVN NOW ADMITS THE BOMBING, WHICH IT CHARACTERIZES - IN THE PARANCE IT HAS USED SINCE THE JANUARY CEASEFIRE - AS A "TRAINING MISSION."

(B) SINCE THE CANADIAN DEPARTURE, THE GVN IN REGION VI HAS REPORTED APPROXIMATELY EIGHT ALLEGED VC VIOLATIONS TO THE ICCS. YET ANOTHER WEEK MAY PASS BEFORE THE INDONESIANS UNILATERALLY INITIATE ANY INVESTIGATIONS IN THE REGION.

4. GVN ACTIVITIES: (A) AT 0920 AUGUST 11, A CONVOY OF 6 TANKERS, 3 TUGS AND 3 BARGES CROSSED FROM VIETNAM TO CAMBODIA ON THE MEKONG, WITHOUT INCIDENT.

(B) THE NEWLY DELINEATED APPLICATION OF THE VALUE ADDED TAX CORRESPONDS IN AT LEAST ONE DELTA PROVINCE, DINH TUONG, TO THE REALITY OF REGISTRATION EFFORTS BY THE GVN TAX SERVICE SO FAR. REGISTRATIONS SINCE JULY 1 HAVE BEEN, IN FACT, LIMITED TO THE LARGER ENTERPRISES.

5. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: (A) DINH TUONG REPORTS AN INCREASE IN VC ACTIVITY OVER THE WEEKEND (0630 AUGUST 11 TO 0630 AUGUST 13), WITH A TOTAL OF 36 INCIDENTS - 19 IN CAI LAY DISTRICT AND 12 IN SAM GIANG. IN CAI LAY, AN OUTPOST AT TAN HIEP (XS263557) WAS HARRASSED SEVEN TIMES, RECEIVING A TOTAL OF 48 MORTAR ROUNDS. IN THE ENTIRE PROVINCE, GVN CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD WERE 8 KILLED, 32 WOUNDED AND 7 MISSING; AS COMPARED WITH 17 VC CLAIMED KILLED, NONE CAPTURED.

(B) THE BAC LIEU PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS GVN DISCOVERY OF A VC "MODEL HAMLET" IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE (WR448530 TO WR446516, AND WR445538 TO WR422520). GVN OFFICIALS IN BAC LIEU CLAIM THERE ARE NO MODEL HAMLETS IN BAC LIEU, BUT READILY ADMIT THAT THE VC PROBABLY INTEND TO ESTABLISH MODEL HAMLETS IN BAC LIEU AS WELL AS IN OTHER

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PROVINCES.

(C) PHONG DINH PROVINCE REPORTS NO VC-INITATED INCIDENTS AT ALL ON AUGUST 10, BUT SEVERAL INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 11 AND 12, INCLUDING 30 PERCENT DAMAGE TO A DREDGE (AT WR870905), AND THE KIDNAPPING OF FOUR MEN AND FOUR WOMEN FROM TAN HIEP HAMLET IN THANH HOA VILLAGE (WR712947 TO WR715943). SIGNED LEHMANN UNQUOTE

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